

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2948

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMCONSUL MANDALAY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DEA BANGKOK

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY DACCA

USLO PEKING

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SUBJ: JOINT WEEKA #4, JANUARY 25 - FEBRUARY 1

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1. INDIAN PRESIDENT TO VISIT (LOU)

INDIAN PRESIDENT SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED AND HIS WIFE WILL
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PAY A STATE VISIT TO BURMA FEBRUARY 13-16.

COMMENT: INDIAN EMBASSY SOURCES SAY THE VISIT IS ROUTINE, AND
NO SERIOUS ISSUES ARE LIKELY TO ARISE. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES ARE GOOD.

THE EARLY MONTHS OF 1977 ARE PROVING TO BE DIPLOMATICALLY VERY
ACTIVE FOR THE BURMESE. THEY HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED THE LAO
PRESIDENT (RANGOON 245) AND THE THAI FOREIGN MINISTER (RANGOON

306), AND THE PRC'S TENG YING CH'AO (MADAME CHOU EN-LAI) IS EXPECTED LATE THIS WEEK. ACCORDING TO A FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE, ALL OF THESE VISITS, AS WELL AS THAT OF PRESIDENT AHMED, HAVE BEEN AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES INVOLVED, NOT THE BURMESE.

2. POPPY ERADICATION EFFORTS STEPPED UP (UNCL)

WE HAVE BEEN RECEIVING INDICATIONS LATELY THAT POPPY ERADICATION EFFORTS IN THE SHAN STATE ARE PICKING UP, AT LEAST THOSE BEING ADMINISTERED BY CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES. THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTED ON 24 JANUARY THAT PEOPLE'S POLICE FORCE TEAMS DESTROYED 40 ACRES OF OPIUM POPPY IN PHEKON TOWNSHIP, SOUTHERN SHAN STATE. IN PAST YEARS, UP TO 200 ACRES HAD BEEN PLANTED IN POPPY IN THIS AREA. AS A RESULT OF ERADICATION EFFORTS IN THE LAST TWO GROWING SEASONS, HOWEVER, MOST FARMERS HAVE SWITCHED TO FRUIT AND TEA CULTIVATION. THE GOVERNMENT HAS DISTRIBUTED FREE OVER 2,000 BAGS OF FERTILIZER TO FARMERS IN THE AREA.

3. GEM EMPORIUM OPENS (UNCL)

BURMA'S ANNUAL GEMS, JADE AND PEARL EMPORIUM, THE ONLY LEGAL OUTLET FOR THE COUNTRY'S PRECIOUS STONES, OPENS FEBRUARY 2 AND WILL RUN FOR 10 DAYS. GEM WHOLESALERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD ARE DESCENDING ON RANGOON TO BID ON THIS YEAR'S OFFERINGS. PARTICIPATION BY U.S. MERCHANTS MAY BE LARGER THIS YEAR THAN IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS AS A NUMBER OF NEW US DEALERS HAVE REQUESTED THE GUB'S AUTHORIZATION TO ATTEND THE SALE.

4. TWO AMERICAN EXHIBITS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED (UNCL)

THE "WORLD OF PAPERBACKS SHOWCASE" CLOSED AT THE DOME OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE I AFTER A SUCCESSFUL TWO-WEEK RUN. MORE THAN 13,800 STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND OFFICIALS EXAMINED AND STUDIED THE COLLECTION OF BOOKS, WHICH INCLUDED A SPECIAL SECTION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN AMERICAN COMMUNITY EDUCATION. ALTHOUGH THE COLLECTION WAS RELATIVELY SMALL - 570 TITLES - THE EMPHASIS ON COMMUNITY AND HIGHER EDUCATION SEEMED TO STRIKE THE RIGHT CHORD.

AT THE SAME TIME, USIS SPONSORED A TWO-WEEK EXHIBIT BY AMERICAN ARTIST JOHN F. KOENIG WHICH WAS VIEWED BY 1286 INVITED ARTISTS, STUDENTS AND GUESTS AT THE AMERICAN CENTER. KOENIG GAVE SEVERAL LECTURE-DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE STATE SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS AND VISITED CULTURE MINISTRY AND ART COUNCIL OFFICIALS. OSBORN

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